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# CALGARY HERALD



**Katherine Fletcher** - There's a growing market for deception, and despite it being condemned as amoral, it's entirely legal.

[Customreceipts.com](#) sells customized fake ATM receipts. The American-based website offers one month's and one year's supply of faux receipts printed on authentic thermal ATM paper. Customers must enter a phony four-digit card number, withdrawal amount and balance. You can pretend to be a millionaire when in fact you don't have enough in your account to cover the ATM fee to take cash out of it.

The website encourages clients to casually let people peek at the faux statement in hopes of eliciting respect. If you want to impress ladies at the bar, customreceipts.com suggests you hand out your phone number written back on one your fake ATM receipts. Warning: this is not conducive to finding a long-term partner. Side effects include that hottie you met at the club dumping your sorry, lyin' ass when she finds out the balance of your bank balance is really three to four decimals to the left of what the phony receipts state.

You must exceed caution when casually dropping fake ATM receipts around people. Risks include friends and colleagues thinking you're careless (haven't you heard about identity theft and credit card fraud?) or arrogant in flaunting your "wealth." If your deception is exposed, though, it's possible that, to borrow Margaret White's warning to her daughter Carrie, "they're all gonna laugh at you."

Another service to consider is [Alibi Network Corp.](#), an American-based, global-reaching company selling fake alibis. The corporation assists clients in covering up an affair, unemployment and truancy with a number of virtual services – business conferences, hotel and flight bookings, telephone and email services. Basically, the Alibi Network helps you pretend to be somewhere or someone you're really not.

What's marvellous about the company is that, unlike many alibi agencies around the world, the Alibi Network goes to great pain to moralize acts of deception. The agency emphasizes the need for privacy in a fast-paced, stress-laced world and to keep sensitive matters and activities hidden.

In delightfully euphemistic prose, the Alibi Network's website says the disclosure of a short-term encounter (read: a quickie affair), for example, "can put an incredible strain on all parties concerned. Family life, friendship and business's well-being can all be jeopardized for what may indeed have been a totally inconsequential short-term objective" and so the company helps "protect your loved ones from undue anxiety, and help ensure the stability of long term relationships and financial security." Alibi Network offers a service for handling sensitive personal and business matters "that would pose a serious threat to a client's overall well being. We express interest and concern in helping you re-establish the emotional equilibrium necessary for success in your life."

Warning: I am required to point out the delicious irony of Alibi Network's mandates and services. While the company stresses the importance of privacy, it doesn't mind invading the privacy of non-clients for the purposes of business. In a press release, the Alibi Network describes a service called "Reference Checks," where an agent posing as a prospective employer will phone up a client's reference to make sure the reference [is covering all the assets the client wants him or her to](#).

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The corporation's mandate is to protect clients and concerned parties from undue hardship and jeopardy, but the Alibi Network is not above metaphorically tar-and-feathering other individuals. The press release also highlights the "Slap Someone" service. "You can send a certificate/plaque to a public official, celebrity, boss, co-worker etc. by sending them a personalized or anonymous membership to the alibi network," the press release states. "It's your way of saying, 'I know you are a liar and so does everyone else.' The packaging alone will guarantee that it is seen by the intended party or, even worse, the office staff."

That's all the time we have today. I hope that I've educated you on a variety of products and service to help you fulfill your desire to deceive others. Please, don't pay any attention to ethicists or moralists or church-going folk who have been orating incessantly that companies specializing in subterfuge as morally unconscionable. The world is going to Hell in a handbasket anyway, and as long as there's people willing to pay to deceive others, the business of deception will keep growing.

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